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14 July 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/NIPE

SUBJECT: CIA Planning Group Activities

My reading of the proposed outline for a "Fifteen Year Intelligence Plan" and the minutes of the Planning Group that have so far been made available (the latest is 2 July 1965) indicates that this effort is headed in a direction that will have it come out as more of a programming and pre-budget exercise rather than an intelligence plan. Like the CIP, it may be dominated by fiscal rather than intelligence considerations and thereby be of greatest use to the comptrollers and budgeteers rather than to those who are directly concerned with and responsible for meeting intelligence requirements.

The idea of starting fifteen years ahead and then working back to the present is a fascinating proposal and probably most practical in that we do not now have a clear picture as to either where we have been or where we are at the present in terms of who and how many are doing what, where and for what purpose.

25X1 If, as [ ] suggests, "we now know" that data can be collected much more efficiently by sources other than the CS, the mission of the DDP with respect to the requirements involved can be not just "narrowed" but eliminated now. The BOB representative on the CIP Review Group brought up this same idea in connection with several areas of activity, i. e. because of the advent of these "other sources" we could dispense with the old fashioned methods of getting mapping and charting data, etc., and save a lot of money. Looking fifteen years ahead allows for a lot of dreaming, so why not go whole hog and dream that by 1980 we will have a large measure of disarmament and thereby be able to eliminate, CIA, DIA, etc. and save even more money.

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I believe that the CIA or any other intelligence planning group should concentrate on those factors that have a direct bearing on the business of collecting raw information and producing finished intelligence. They should concern themselves with resources in terms of their impact on the intelligence effort, not in terms of "cost" as such.

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[redacted] Besides we have literally scads of people in and out of the Intelligence Community who devote their full time and attention to cost-effectiveness, gold flow, why can't you do it cheaper, etc. What we don't have are enough people concerning themselves with the intelligence effectiveness of the Community's effort which cannot be fully translated into dollars and numbers of people.

At the risk of being accused of heresy, I suggest that the kind of factors or problems that any intelligence planning group should be primarily concerned with are rather well laid out in DIA's Collection Plan Format [redacted] This planning format bears some resemblance to one that was drawn up for FI over twelve years ago but apparently all copies of that old and abortive effort have long since been destroyed. In the DIA plan I find a most refreshing candor in dealing with what they call "collection deterrents", including problems with [redacted] and lack of training.

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Attachment

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